

What is claimed is:

1. A package enclosing a single disposable absorbent article, the package comprising a first piece of material and a second piece of material, the first piece of material and the second piece of material being operatively associated with one another to enclose the absorbent article, the operative association defining a seal, wherein at least a portion of the first piece of material and at least a portion of the second piece of material extend beyond the seal to deliver an opening element.
2. The package of claim 1, wherein the first piece of material and the second piece of material have different rigidities.
3. The package of claim 2, wherein the first piece of material is more rigid than the second piece of material.
4. The package of claim 2, wherein the second piece of material is more rigid than the first piece of material.
5. The package of claim 2, wherein the seal defines at least one lateral edge and at least one longitudinal edge, wherein a portion of the opening tab extends beyond at least one lateral edge of the seal, and a portion of the opening tab extends beyond at least one longitudinal edge of the seal.
6. The package of claim 5, wherein at least 50% of the opening element extends beyond at least one lateral edge of the seal, and at least 50% of the opening element extends beyond at least one longitudinal edge of the seal.
7. The package of claim 2, wherein the portion of the first piece of material and the portion of the second piece of material are non-coterminous.
8. The package of claim 1, wherein the package is vacuum packed.
9. The package of claim 1, wherein the opening element is coded to indicate the size or type of the absorbent article.
10. The package of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a ratio in a folded configuration to an unfolded configuration of no more than 0.09.

11. A package enclosing a single disposable absorbent article, the package comprising a layer of material having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the layer of material configured to provide an interior space and at least two lateral seals, the absorbent article being situated within the interior space of the package, wherein a portion of the layer of material extends beyond at least one lateral seal to provide an opening element.
12. The package of claim 11 further comprising a longitudinal seal.
13. The package of claim 11 wherein a portion of the layer of material is operatively associated with another portion of the layer of material to provide the interior space.
14. The package of claim 11 wherein the opening element comprises an upper portion and a lower portion.
15. The package of claim 14 wherein the upper portion and the lower portion are non-coterminous.
16. The package of claim 11, wherein the absorbent article is vacuum packaged.
17. The package of claim 11, wherein the opening element is coded to indicate the size or type of the absorbent article.
18. The package of claim 17, wherein the opening element is color coded to indicate the size or type of the absorbent article.
19. The package of claim 17, wherein the opening element is tactilely coded to indicate the size or type of the absorbent article.
20. The package of claim 14, wherein the upper portion of the opening element and the lower portion of the opening element have different rigidities.
21. A package enclosing a single disposable absorbent article, the package comprising a first piece of material and a second piece of material, the first piece of material and the second piece of material being operatively associated with one another to enclose the absorbent article, the operative association defining a seal, wherein the seal defines at least one lateral edge and at least one longitudinal edge, wherein at least a portion of the first piece of material and at least a

portion of the second piece of material extend beyond the seal to deliver an opening tab, wherein a portion of the opening tab extends beyond at least one lateral edge of the seal, and a portion of the opening tab extends beyond at least one longitudinal edge of the seal.

5        22.        The package of claim 21, wherein the first piece of material and the second piece of material have different rigidities.

23.        The package of claim 22, wherein the first piece of material is more rigid than the second piece of material.

10

24.        The package of claim 22, wherein the second piece of material is more rigid than the first piece of material.

25.        The package of claim 22, wherein the package is vacuum packed.

15

26.        The package of claim 22, wherein the absorbent article has a ratio in the folded configuration to the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.09.